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Title:

Speech notes at Bedford Industries Christmas Seal Appeal

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SPEECH NOTES FOR THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, AT BEDFORD INDUSTRIES
CHRISTMAS SEAL APPEAL 30.10.73

MY LORD MAYOR, MR JENKINS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THE STATE GOVERNMENT DEEPLY APPRECIATES THE WORK OF BEDFORD INDUSTRIES TO MEET A GROWING COMMUNITY NEED.

IN THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE A SUBSIDY TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING THESE SERVICES TO THE HANDICAPPED.

AN ARRANGEMENT BY BEDFORD INDUSTRIES WITH ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY A YEAR AGO RESULTED IN THE UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY BECOMING RESPONSIBLE FOR VOCATIONAL ASSESSMENT, GUIDANCE, TRAINING AND RESEARCH AT BEDFORD.

THIS HAS BEEN OF HELP IN MANY WAYS TO THE CLIENTS AT BEDFORD INDUSTRIES, AND ONE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE IN JANUARY 1974.

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I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS AGREED TO SECOND FULL TIME TEACHING STAFF TO BEDFORD INDUSTRIES TO FURTHER HELP THE PEOPLE THERE.

ANOTHER NEW DEVELOPMENT DURING THE YEAR WAS THE SETTING UP BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FURTHER EDUCATION, THROUGH MARLESTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE, OF A BEDFORD INDUSTRIES SPECIAL CLASS.

I'D LIKE TO QUOTE FROM A REPORT ON THIS CLASS BY MR GALE, HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF BUILDING:

"AS A HIGH DEGREE OF ENTHUSIASM, CONSCIENTIOUSNESS AND CO-OPERATION IS BEING WELL MAINTAINED BY ALL STUDENTS, I AM UNABLE TO SEE ANYTHING BUT SUCCESS IN THIS VENTURE AND AM VERY HOPEFUL OF ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL CLASS FOR THESE SLOWER LEARNERS IN THE COMING YEAR."

THESE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS HELPING BEDFORD INDUSTRIES IN ITS PIONEER WORK IN THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF THE HANDICAPPED.

THERE ARE MORE THAN 13,300 INVALID PENSIONERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. BUT THIS IS NOT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE NEEDING VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION.

IT'S EVERY PERSON'S RIGHT TO HUMAN DIGNITY AND EVERYONE'S RIGHT TO WORK.

BEDFORD INDUSTRIES ENABLE THE DISADVANTAGED IN OUR SOCIETY TO ACHIEVE THESE RIGHTS.

THERE ARE MANY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY FROM COUNTRY AREAS, WHO CANNOT AT PRESENT GET THE BENEFITS OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SIMPLY BECAUSE MOST COUNTRY DISTRICTS ARE TOO SMALL TO SUPPORT

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A FACILITY OF THE DIVERSITY, SIZE AND QUALITY NEEDED.

THE BUILDING OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION CLOSE TO BEDFORD WILL BE A GREAT STEP FORWARD TOWARDS MEETING THIS NEED.

SO PLEASE SUPPORT THIS APPEAL AS GENEROUSLY AS YOU CAN.

IT'S NOT JUST A GOOD CAUSE, IT'S AN ESSENTIAL ONE.

THANK YOU.